

# Belle Plaine Area Museum (Addition)

**Location:** 901 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Belle Plaine, Iowa

**Completed:** Under Construction

**Size:** 9,845 s.f. existing  
5,352 s.f. addition

**Construction:** Masonry bearing walls with brick veneer. Hollow core precast concrete floor and roof.

**Developer:**  
Belle Plaine Area Museum

**Before**



**After**



In 2011 the Belle Plaine Area Museum began construction of an addition to their existing facility in order to expand their display space and to house a new exhibit of artifacts chronicling the life of notable native Iowa philanthropist and business man Henry B. Tippie.

The addition was designed in partnership with museum consultant Bob Bodnar of Omaha, Nebraska, West Plains Engineering, DCL Consulting Engineers, and Hall & Hall Engineers.

The buildings structure of precast hollow core concrete planks was chosen in order to minimize the depth of structure to allow for higher ceilings in the exhibit areas to allow for notable displays such as a reconstructed one room school house bell tower.

With a conventional water based fire sprinkler system, the various paper and cloth artifacts in the museum could potentially be destroyed by either fire or water in the event of a building fire. So for this project, a clean agent system was specified that deploys non-toxic chemicals to quickly extinguish any fires without damaging the items on display.

